

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)
2. (Previously Presented) The sheet member transfer device according to claim 7, wherein the low adhesion sections in at least the leading end application region are comprised of resilient material.
3. (Previously Presented) The sheet member transfer device according to claim 7, wherein the low adhesion sections in at least the leading end application region are comprised of silicone rubber at least in outer surface regions thereof.
4. (Previously Presented) The sheet member transfer device according to claim 7, wherein the high adhesion sections in at least the leading end application region have outer surfaces in the form of mirror-finished surfaces.
5. (Original) The sheet member transfer device according to claim 4, wherein the mirror-finished surfaces are formed by plating with respect to the outer surfaces.
6. (Previously Presented) The sheet member transfer device according to claim 7, wherein the low adhesion sections and the high adhesion sections in at least the leading end application region are arranged alternately in the axial direction.
7. (Currently Amended) A sheet member transfer device structured to form a cylindrical tire constitutive member by joining a leading end and a trailing end of a sheet member with each other, wherein the sheet member is formed by successively joining side edges of a plurality of narrow strip members with each other, the strip members having a constant width, the sheet member transfer device comprising:  
  
a transfer drum having a circumferential direction and a width direction, the width direction being substantially perpendicular to the circumferential direction, and

~~structured to form~~ forming the sheet member by applying the plurality of strip members onto an outer peripheral surface of the transfer drum so that the width direction of each strip member is oriented in the circumferential direction of the transfer drum, and a receiver drum ~~structured to form~~ forming the cylindrical tire constitutive member by joining the leading end and the trailing end of the sheet member which has been transferred from the transfer drum, with the transfer drum urged against the receiver drum and the receiver drum rotated in an opposite direction to the transfer drum; ~~and~~

the transfer drum being provided, on its outer peripheral surface, with a leading end application region ~~that is structured to apply~~ applying a strip member forming the leading end of the sheet member, and a plurality of application regions following the leading end application region and arranged in the circumferential direction of the transfer drum, the application regions being divided into a plurality of low adhesion sections with a low adhesion force, and a plurality of high adhesion sections with a high adhesion force, the low adhesion sections and the high adhesion sections being alternately arranged in the width direction of the transfer ~~drum~~ drum; ~~and~~

the high adhesion sections connected to projections that can alternatively move the high adhesion sections radially inwards of the low adhesion sections, wherein when the sheet member is transferred from the transfer drum and applied to the receiver drum, the high adhesion sections move radially inwards of the low adhesion sections so that the sheet member is held solely by the low adhesion sections and when the sheet member is being held on the transfer drum, the sheet member is held in place mainly by the high adhesion sections.

8. (Previously Presented) The sheet member transfer device according to claim 7, wherein, starting from the leading end application region, the plurality of application regions are arranged at a predefined pitch in the circumferential direction of the transfer drum.

9. (Currently Amended) The sheet member transfer device according to claim 7, wherein the sheet member transfer device further comprises:

~~radial expansion/contraction means for moving the high adhesion sections radially inwards of the low adhesion sections,~~ the high adhesion sections and low adhesion sections being flush with each other when the narrow strip members are applied to the transfer drum, and the high adhesion sections being moved by the ~~radial expansion/contraction means~~ projections radially inwards of the low adhesion sections, when the sheet member is transferred from the transfer drum to the receiver drum; and

the ~~radial expansion/contraction means~~ projections comprising collective expansion/ contraction means for moving radially inwards the high adhesion sections in the leading end application region and the application region adjacent thereto, respectively, and moving means for individually moving radially inwards the high adhesion sections in the remaining application regions.

10. (Previously Presented) The sheet member transfer device according to claim 9, wherein the collective expansion/contraction means further comprises:

cam followers which are pivoted to the high adhesion sections, respectively, and are structured to move radially inwards and outwards;

a rotary cam structured to rotate to move the cam followers radially inwards and outwards; and

cam driving means for rotating the rotary cam in the circumferential direction of the transfer drum.